

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Change the paragraph beginning at Page 1, line to read as follows:

-- Ravipati, U.S. patent No. [5,709,358] 5,708,358 for a "Spin Valve Magnetoresistive Transducers Having Permanent Magnets" has thin film layers of ferromagnetic material separated from each other by a nonmagnetic spacer. The direction of magnetization of one thin ferromagnetic layer[s] is pinned by a permanent magnetic layer. Another permanent magnetic layer is located adjacent to the other thin film layer to provide longitudinal biasing. --

Change the paragraph beginning at Page 5, line 25 to read as follows:

- - In the case of the embodiments of FIGS. 5A-5E and FIGS. 6A-6E, the material layer L2 is omitted from the drawings. [selected from the above group consisting of Ag/Ti/TiW and TaW.] - -

Change the paragraph beginning at Page 7, line 18 to read as follows:

-- 4. Referring to FIG. 3C, the device 30 of FIG. 3B is shown after the ion milling continued to form a tapered window W' in the photoresist PR, which has been milled to a thinner layer PR with a wider opening [, and below] Below the window W', [extends] an inwardly tapered depression D extends through the thin ferromagnetic (NiFe) layer L4, antiferromagnetic (L3) layer AFM1 and a [and] conductor layer C1, stopping in the middle of the layer L1, with the layer L1 serving as an ion milling stop layer forming the bottom of window W'. --